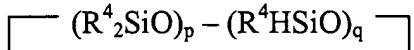
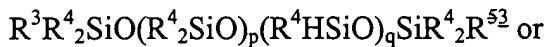


Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0013] with the following amended paragraph:

[0013] A suitable silane which may serve as cross-linking organosilicon compound is methyltrihydrosilane. Suitable organosilicon resin compounds include organosilicon resins consisting mainly of tetrafunctional siloxane units of the formula $\text{SiO}_{4/2}$ and monofunctional units $\text{R}_v\text{H}_w\text{Si}_{1/2}$, wherein R is as defined above, v and w each have a value of from 0 to 3, the sum of v+w being 3. Suitable short chain organosiloxane polymers include those having at least 3 silicon-bonded hydrogen atoms per molecule and may be linear or cyclic. Preferred organosilicon cross-linkers have the general formula



wherein R^4 denotes an alkyl or aryl group having up to 10 carbon atoms, R^3 is a group R^4 or a hydrogen atom, p has a value of from 0 to 20, q has a value of from 1 to 70, and there are at least 3 silicon-bonded hydrogen atoms present per molecule. It is not crucial but preferred that the silicon-bonded hydrogen atoms are on terminal silicon atoms for linear siloxane compounds. It is preferred that R^4 denotes a lower alkyl group having no more than 3 carbon atoms, most preferably a methyl group. R^3 preferably denotes an R^4 group. Preferably p = 0 and q has a value of from 2 to 70, more preferably 2 to 30, or where cyclic organosilicon materials are used, from 3 to 8. It is most preferred that the organosilicon crosslinker is a siloxane polymer having a viscosity of from 1 to 150 mm²/s at 25°C, more preferably 2 to 100 mm²/s, most preferably 5 to 60 mm²/s. The cross-linking organosilicon compound may comprise a mixture of several materials as described.